guidelines from time to time to the State Governments for promoting communal harmony among different communities. The guidelines are reviewed periodically.

The Government is clear that acts of violence against the minority communities, whenever and in whatever form they occur, must be dealt with stremly and exemplary punishment awarded to the perpetrators.

Death sentence for possessing RDX

1173. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to enact a low to provide for death sentence to persons found in possession of RDX explosive material;

(b) when a bill for this legislation is expected to be brought forward; and

(c) whether State Governments have been consulted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) The Explosive Substances (Amendment) Bill, 1998, which has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 8.12.1998., provides, *inter alia,* that any person who unlawfully and railiciously causes by any special category explosive substance an explosion of a nature likely to endanger life or to cause serious injury to property shall, whether any injury to person or property has been actually caused or not, be punished with death, or imprisonment for life, and shall also be liable to fine.

(c) The proposal to amend the Explosive Substances Act, 1908 was taken up on the suggestion of a State government. Keeping in vjew the objective of the proposed amendments, consultations with the State Governments were not considered necessary.

Inability of Delhi Police to recruit more men

1174. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:

SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Police is not in a position to recruit more men despite the consent of government; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the measures adopted by Government to check or stop rising crimes in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The steps taken by Delhi Police to improve law and order situation in the National Capital Territory include intensification of patrolling especially from 6 PM to 10 PM surveillance over the activities of known criminals, improved intelligence gathering; raids over the places of ill-repute and suspected hide-outs of criminals; high visibility of police in the vulnerable areas; and constitution of a regional coordination group compris? ing police officers of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan to exchange information about the criminals.

Coordinated Security Plan for North-East

1175. SHRI C. O. POULOSE:

SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had assured a co-ordinated security action plan for the North-East;

(b) if so, the progress so far made in this regard;

(c) the number of police stations declared "disturbed" in Tripura; and

(d) the number of battalions of the Army and the Assam Rifles deployed in different police stations in Tripura, alongwith the number of police stations?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a)